

REMARKS

Claims 48-100 and 102-182 were previously pending in this application. Claims 48, 77, 100, 102 and 132 have been amended above. No other claims have been added or canceled by this Second Supplemental Amendment. Accordingly, claims 48-100 and 102-182 as amended herein are presented for further examination on the merits.

At the very outset, acknowledgement and appreciation is made of the courtesy extended by Examiner Ardin H. Marschel, Ph.D. in the personal interview held on November 3, 1998 with Dr. Dean L. Engelhardt, the Senior Vice President for the instant assignee, and the undersigned attorney. It is believed that the interview engendered a frank discussion of the issues that will only serve to facilitate prosecution of this application and bring it to a final resolution.

As a follow-up to the November 3, 1998 interview, Applicants have amended each of claims 48, 77, 100, 102 and 132 which are independent by claiming as an additional element in each "a signalling entity which is quantifiable in solution" (in the case of claims 48, 77 and 102), or "means for producing a signalling entity which is quantifiable in solution" (in the case of claims 100 and 132). By so amending the claims in this way, Applicants have adopted the Examiner's cogent suggestion which is believed to form the basis of patentable subject matter over any of the prior art of record.

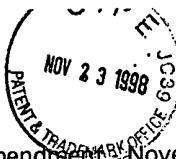
Entry of the above amendments to the claims is respectfully requested.

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

No claims have been added or canceled by this Second Supplemental Amendment, although five claims (48, 77, 100, 102 and 132) have been amended. Claims 48-100 and 102-182 as affected by the amendments above are presented for further examination on the merits.

No fee is believed due in connection with this Second Supplemental Amendment, a three month extension fee having been previously authorized in connection with Applicants' July 21, 1998 Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.115. In the event, however, that any other fee or fees are due in connection with this Second Supplemental Amendment or with any of Applicants' previous filings, including their July 21, 1998 Amendment, their August 17, 1998 Supplemental Amendment and/or their September 21, 1998 Supplemental Response, The Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge the amount of any such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 05-1135, or to credit any overpayment thereto.

If it would be helpful to expediting the prosecution of this application, the undersigned may be contacted by telephone at 212-583-0100 during the daytime business hours.

Early and favorable action on this application is respectfully sought.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald C. Fedus".

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